

Ground Operations-Barstow Field Office (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700576

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

This grounds operation project funds work activities for 3 OHV Recreation Areas around Barstow. These are the Rasor, Johnson & Stoddard Valley Open Areas. This project funds on site visitor services, OHV planning, program oversight, and the normal operations and maintenance activities required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. Agency Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers. Non-law enforcement Park Rangers, Volunteers and Rescue 3 work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services, and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with the rules and regulations. Recreation Planner, Program Managers, Biologist, Soil Specialist, Time Keepers, OHV planner, EMT, and various Staff Specialists and Budget Specialist provide project expertise and oversight. Additional staffing is provided for holiday weekends and special events. Our fliers use recycled paper. Visitor services field work is coordinated through dispatchers from the Inter-Agency Dispatch Center.

Project work activities include maintenance of perimeter fence, several miles of internal access roads, several vault toilets and hundreds of various signs. We are buying 2 dual sport motorcycles, uniforms, supplies and materials for staff use planning, patrolling in and between our OHV recreation areas. This includes coordination and support work for OHV opportunities in adjacent limited use areas, and OHV travel management. Visitor contacts focus on explaining and seeking voluntary compliance for all California OHV and resource protection laws. On-going work includes wildlife and soil surveys, plus monitoring resource conditions inside boundaries and refined development of project habitat & soil management plans. OHV Planner, Project staff and Management are addressing HMP/Soil Plan compliance and emerging issues in the project areas.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

These three OHV Recreation Areas were created in the original 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan and have provided world class OHV opportunities for 28 years. This project provides the visitor services and facility maintenance needed to continue providing sustained OHV recreation opportunities on public land. Many of these facilities were built with monies from previous green sticker grants. Visitor contact and support services are provided by staff working out of the BLM Barstow Office and through routine patrols of the recreation area. This work provides basic visitor services for people staging, camping and riding OHVs here today and tomorrow.

Additional staff work takes care of infrastructure built to manage, contain and support OHV recreation. Perimeter barriers have been installed in critical areas to delineate the legal riding opportunity and prevent trespass or incursions into critical desert tortoise habitat. Maintaining the access road network facilitates visitor and emergency vehicle travel and distribution throughout the recreation areas. Maintaining the signs, restrooms and protective fencing sustains a clean healthy setting. And behind the scenes more work activities address the management and protection of sensitive desert resources. Additional new work will address soil and road conditions through increased monitoring. Plus, increased efforts for special status species inventories, mapping and hmp plan improvements. Barstow Staff continue to issue permits and prepare NEPA documents and permits for a steady stream of special events.

C. Describe the size of the specific Project Area(s) in acres and/or miles

The Stoddard Valley OHV Recreation Area contains 35,000 acres, Johnson Valley OHV Recreation Area contains about 165,000 acres, and the Rasor OHV Recreation Area comprises about 30,000 acres. Total project size is 230,000 acres.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

This project includes public land designated for motorized recreation at the Rasor, Stoddard and Johnson Valley OHV

Recreation Areas. The Razor recreation area is about 35 east of Barstow, just off Interstate 15. This is an exciting and more remote area for the off-highway vehicle user. Razor has rolling hills, open valleys, and sand dunes that invite riders willing to travel through this remote area. Elevations range from near 2,427 feet elevation down to around 1,275 feet elevation at the Mojave River.

Located just south of Barstow off I-15 Highway, Stoddard Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Area offers a diverse landscape for off-highway vehicle recreation. It is characterized by steep rocky mountains, rolling hills, open valleys, and winding sandy washes. Elevations range from 5,000 feet on Stoddard Peak, to 2,800 feet at Turtle Valley. Vegetation consists of creosote scrub, annual grasses, wild flowers and the Joshua tree; a symbol of the Mojave Desert.

Johnson Valley is a varied landscape for the off-highway vehicle driver. It is punctuated by steep red rocky mountains, rolling hills, open valleys, dry lake beds and sandy washes. Elevations range from 4,600 feet at Hartwell Hills to 2,300 feet at Melville Dry Lake. Vegetation consists of creosote scrub, annual grasses, wild flowers and Joshua Trees.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

Additional Documentation

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
Application: Ground Operations-Barstow Field Office (FINAL)

2/25/2010

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Barstow Field Office		
PROJECT TITLE :	Ground Operations-Barstow Field Office (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-01-04-G01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>This grounds operation project funds work activities for 3 OHV Recreation Areas around Barstow. These are the Razor, Johnson & Stoddard Valley Open Areas. This project funds on site visitor services, OHV planning, program oversight, and the normal operations and maintenance activities required to sustain OHV recreation opportunities. Agency Maintenance Workers and Park Rangers work to clean restrooms and maintain roads, signs, kiosks, fences and vehicle barriers. Non-law enforcement Park Rangers, Volunteers and Rescue 3 work together to provide seamless visitor services including directions, emergency services, and visitor contacts for voluntary compliance with the rules and regulations. Recreation Planner, Program Managers, Biologist, Soil Specialist, Time Keepers , OHV planner, EMT, and various Staff Specialists and Budget Specialist provide project expertise and oversight. Additional staffing is provided for holiday weekends and special events. Our fliers use recycled paper. Visitor services field work is coordinated through dispatchers from the Inter-Agency Dispatch Center.</p> <p>Project work activities include maintenance of perimeter fence, several miles of internal access roads, several vault toilets and hundreds of various signs. We are buying 2 dual sport motorcycles, uniforms, supplies and materials for staff use planning, patrolling in and between our OHV recreation areas. This includes coordination and support work for OHV opportunities in adjacent limited use areas, and OHV travel management. Visitor contacts focus on explaining and seeking voluntary compliance for all California OHV and resource protection laws. On-going work includes wildlife and soil surveys, plus monitoring resource conditions inside boundaries and refined development of project habitat & soil management plans. OHV Planner, Project staff and Management are addressing HMP/Soil Plan compliance and emerging issues in the project areas.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Park Ranger Notes : 3 Full time positions spread among the 3 sites.	2200.000	29.000	HRS	63,800.00	0.00	63,800.00
	Maintenance Worker Notes : Full time position spread among the 3 sites.	1500.000	38.000	HRS	57,000.00	0.00	57,000.00
	Other-NPLD Volunteers	1500.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Desert Cleanup Volunteers	1500.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00
	Other-Wildlife Biologist	200.000	44.000	HRS	8,800.00	0.00	8,800.00
	Other-Soil Specialist	180.000	47.000	HRS	8,460.00	0.00	8,460.00
	Other-time keeper Notes : This position works overtime, weekends, nights and holidays to process staff time for special events and holidays.	200.000	30.000	HRS	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
	Other-OHV Planner	200.000	50.000	HRS	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
	Heavy Equipment Operator	400.000	37.000	HRS	14,800.00	0.00	14,800.00
	Other-EMT	300.000	49.000	HRS	14,700.00	0.00	14,700.00
	Total for Staff				183,560.00	60,000.00	243,560.00
2	Contracts						
	Other-Pump vault toilets	40.000	400.000	EA	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Flexible fiberglass signs	400.000	24.000	EA	0.00	9,600.00	9,600.00
	Other-Uniforms,misc.	30.000	400.000	EA	10,000.00	2,000.00	12,000.00
	Other-brochures maps	30.000	50.000	EA	1,000.00	500.00	1,500.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				12,500.00	11,600.00	24,100.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Other-Agency 4 x 4 pickup trucks	300.000	40.000	DAY	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00
	Other-maintiance vehicle	300.000	45.000	DAY	0.00	13,500.00	13,500.00
	Water Truck	300.000	30.000	DAY	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
	Other-dump truck	100.000	70.000	DAY	0.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
	Other-grader usage	80.000	50.000	HRS	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00

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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	45,500.00	45,500.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
	Other-dual sport dirt bike	2.000	6390.000	EA	12,780.00	0.00	12,780.00
	Other-Rider Safety Equipment Notes : Neck Brace, Helmet, Gear Bag, Pants, Gloves, Boots, Impact Protection, Knee pads, Goggles,	2.000	850.000	EA	1,500.00	200.00	1,700.00
	Total for Equipment Purchases				14,280.00	200.00	14,480.00
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Management Oversight	185.000	75.000	HRS	13,875.00	0.00	13,875.00
	Indirect Costs-Budget specialist	100.000	30.000	HRS	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
	Indirect Costs-Admin officer	200.000	31.000	HRS	6,200.00	0.00	6,200.00
	Total for Indirect Costs				23,075.00	0.00	23,075.00
	Total Program Expenses				233,415.00	133,300.00	366,715.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				233,415.00	133,300.00	366,715.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				233,415.00	133,300.00	366,715.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Barstow Field Office
Application: Ground Operations-Barstow Field Office (FINAL)

2/25/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	183,560.00	60,000.00	243,560.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	16,000.00	16,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	12,500.00	11,600.00	24,100.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	45,500.00	45,500.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	14,280.00	200.00	14,480.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	23,075.00	0.00	23,075.00	
Total Program Expenses		233,415.00	133,300.00	366,715.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		233,415.00	133,300.00	366,715.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		233,415.00	133,300.00	366,715.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

This project does not impact wetlands or navigable waters because there are none in or near this project. This project includes work activities at three separate but similar sites, the Johnson Valley, Stoddard Valley and Rasor OHV Recreation Areas. Each is located on relatively similar desert terrain and geography with few conflicts among OHV riders and natural resources. Project activities could impact desert tortoise in both Johnson Valley and Stoddard Valley. Formal Consultations have been conducted for the desert tortoise in both of these areas. Terms and conditions have been developed which would avoid and minimize these potential impacts to the extent practicable. The Mojave Fringe-toed lizard could be impacted by the project at the Rasor OHV Recreation Area. Ground disturbing activities are subject to review on a case-by-case basis to avoid and minimize impacts to fringe-toed lizards. Also, this species is subject to management under the HMP - in particular, the HMP calls for focused studies to assess population dynamics and the relation to OHV recreation at Dumont Dunes. No other sensitive habitat or species would be impacted by this project.

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

This is a ground operations project to fund continued routine maintenance and operation of existing facilities and services. We determined the potential impacts from these routine activities are nominal and therefore determined this project qualifies for a categorical exclusion. No cumulative impacts were identified for this project.

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

The work in the proposed project is intended to provide on-going maintenance to prevent substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil through inappropriate motorized recreation. We are requesting funding in this year's ground operations project to increase our ability to manage OHV recreation by applying sustainable practices, further reducing the potential for substantial soil erosion.

There is a very low possibility the proposed activities will have a significant effect on slopes or soils because our routine maintenance and operations do not involve work on steep slopes or highly erosive soils. This project involves routine upkeep and maintenance for minimal facilities providing basic services such as signs, kiosks, vault toilets and roads within the OHV recreation areas. All these facilities are located to avoid environmental problems related to steep slopes and highly erosive soils. Planned work activities in this project include measuring and monitoring soils within the recreation area to update and ensure compliance with our soils management plan.

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

There are no state scenic highways in the viewshed of the project.

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

No known impacts to cultural resources

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

There is a very low potential for this project to cause indirect significant impacts because all the activities in this project are minor with no or little surface disturbances. The work consists of routine on-going maintenance and operations of existing facilities and services inside the 3 OHV recreation areas near Barstow, Stoddard & Johnson Valleys and the Rasor OHV area.

We are in the planning stage to expand our services by adding a small tracked tractor to provide additional capabilities to build and maintain trails specifically for OHV use. Continued improvement in our OHV program, combined with maintenance and operations in this project, are intended to result in an attractive setting that continues to draw OHV riders to these areas, thereby keeping user groups here and avoiding dislocation to elsewhere and the potential resulting off-site impacts.

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[Johnson Valley OHV Area CX](#)
[Rasor OHV Area CX](#)
[Stoddard Valley OHV Area CX](#)

Evaluation Criteria

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Note: This field will auto-populate once the Cost Estimate and Evaluation Criteria are Validated.) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 7

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)
☒ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- b. Project area includes numerous cultural sites in and adjacent to the riding areas protected by roads, facilities and focusing visitors in established and patrolled directed use areas; grant funds pay this and staff monitoring.
c. There are special status species such as the desert tortoise throughout the project area, similarly managed.
d. Each of the recreation riding areas is bordered by private property protected by signs, patrols and fences.
e. Providing grant services and facilities in good clean condition is required to avoid visitor frustration, vandalism and impacts to sensitive resources and neighbors.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
☒ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. There are about 50 miles of maintained roads leading into and throughout the project area.
b. Each of the riding areas has roads and drainage control structures requiring annual maintenance, including road surface materials, culverts, low water crossings, sediment basins and rolling dips.
c. We have hundreds of signs with info or directing and controlling traffic, spaced throughout the project area.
d. Historic land uses, plus variety of terrain and visitor riding patterns, created trails for all uses, ATV, jeep, Mc.
e. This project includes a range of terrain in varying degrees of steepness, width and sandyness combining to provide full spectrum of riding difficulty from novice to expert.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Publicly noticed meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. This project includes input from public OHV Leadership meeting at BLM CDD Office.
c. This project incorporates comments from stakeholders at meetings, open to the public, with the Wilderness Leaders Mtg, (sponsored by California Wilderness Coalition) at the BLM CDD Office.

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Friends of Johnson Valley
Coalition to Save Johnson Valley
AMA District 37
Friends of Giant Rock
San Bernardino County Film Commission

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)
☒ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

- a. There are numerous protective barriers in the project area to protect sensitive desert resources and private land.
b. We easily comply with local water quality measures because natural drain patterns are internal and limit impacts.
c. After previous problems with washouts a large box culvert was installed and maintained on Boone Rd. in JV.
d. A variety of special status species occur throughout the project area, foremost is the desert tortoise.
f. We have installed nearly 2 dozen vault toilets in the project area, improving sanitary conditions.
g. A variety of cultural sites in and adjacent to the legal riding areas are protected from risk of potential impact.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 3

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☒ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

The OHV areas are managed with a minimalist approach. We maintain natural vegetation which acts as a carbon sequestration sink to capture greenhouse gases emitted from motorized vehicles in the project area. We save water and energy because we did not build permanent facilities in the riding areas, other than vault toilet. The facilities we installed were made from recycled materials, with low volatile organic compound emission materials & low flow plumbing fixtures. They are also bolt together for sustainable easy repair and recycle, per USGBC standards.

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camping | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Birding |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equestrian trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rock Climbing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |